

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

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COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 FRB-03 H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03

LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15

STR-04 ITC-01 TRSE-00 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 OMB-01

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FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2075

INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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TAGS: ETRD, UY

SUBJ: TRADE POLICY TEAM VISIT - URUGUAY AND LAFTA

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3216

1. SUMMARY. DESPITE A DELAYED ARRIVAL DUE TO BAD WEATHER, SUBJECT VISIT ON SEPTEMBER 2 WAS WELL RECEIVED AND WE HAVE HEARD NUMEROUS FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM GOU AND LAFTA OFFICIALS. SHORT VISIT ALLOWED PRESENTATION OF US VIEWS ON MTN AND PROVOKED NO DIFFICULT QUESTIONS. END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER AMBASSADORS MADE A COURTESY CALL ON SUB-SECRETARY OF FONMIN, TEAM MET WITH GOU OFFICIALS. AMBASSADOR YEUTTER EXPLAINED US OBJECTIVES IN MTN AND NEED FOR URGENCY IN ORDER TO CONCLUDE NEGOTIATIONS NEXT YEAR. IN SHORTENED ONE HOUR MEETING HE BRIEFLY COVERED AGENDA TOPICS LISTED REFTEL. URUGUAYANS ASKED WHETHER IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT CONTRIBUTIONS FROM LOME CONVENTION MEMBERS WHO ARE ALREADY WELL SATISFIED AND CAN ONLY EXPECT TO LOSE EC PREFERENCE MARGINS. AMB.

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YEUTTER EXPLAINED US OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL PREFERENCES IN GENERAL

AND TO ANY BINDING OF PREFERENCE MARGINS IN PARTICULAR. URUGUAYANS UNDERLINED DISCRIMINATORY FEATURES OF LOME VIS-A-VIS LA. THEY ALSO DESCRIBED THEIR DIFFICULTIES IN MEAT EXPORTS WITH VARYING SANITARY STANDARDS. AMB. YEUTTER EXPLAINED RIGID US AFTOSA REGULATIONS AND SAID CODEX WAS FORUM FOR DISCUSSION OF OTHER SANITARY ISSUES.

E. URUGUAYANS POINTED TO EXPANDING LEATHER GARMENT EXPORTS AND ASKED IF SECTORAL COMMODITY NEGOTIATION WAS POSSIBLE FOR LEATHER. (COMMENT: GOU IS MOST ANXIOUS TO SEE CONTINUATION OF CURRENT EXPANSION OF LEATHER EXPORTS.)

4. IN SUBSEQUENT MEETING WITH LAFTA PERMANENT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ATTENDED BY ABOUT FIFTY MEMBERS AND OBSERVERS, AMB. YEUTTER STRESSED GENERAL OBJECTIVE OF INVOLVING LA MORE FULLY IN MTN AND GATT. HE EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EVERY COUNTRY WOULD BECOME GATT MEMBER BY CONCLUSION OF NEGOTIATIONS. HE DESCRIBED NEXT YEAR AS CRUCIAL AND EMPHASIZED SHARED INTERESTS OF US AND LA. HE URGED THE LATINS TO BEEF UP THEIR MTN DELEGATIONS AND JOIN IN EFFORTS TO GET A MORE FORTHCOMING RESPONSE FROM THE EC. QUESTIONED AS TO COOPERATION IN AGRICULTURAL NEGOTIATIONS, AMB. YEASTER SAID THIS WAS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY AND ALL EXPORTERS MUST WORK TOGETHER. OTHER QUESTIONS ASKED FOR ASSURANCES OF SPECIAL AND DIFFERENTIAL TREATMENT FOR LDC'S AND NOTED COMMITMENT IN TOKYO DECLARATION TO ACHIEVE SATISFACTORY RESULTS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS. YEUTTER DESCRIBED CURRENT WORK ON SUBSIDIES CODE, SAFEGUARDS, GOVERNMENT PURCHASES AND QR'S. IN RESPONSE TO A FURTHER QUESTION ON LOME, HE REITERATED US OPPOSITION TO SPECIAL PREFERENCES.

5. AFTER LUNCHEON WITH GOU OFFICIALS HOSTED BY AMB. SIRACUSA, TEAM DEPARTED FOR RIO/BRASILIA.

6. VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE AND FAVORABLE PRESS COVERAGE. ONE GOU OFFICIAL QUOTED AS SAYING: "THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS WAS VERY CONSTRUCTIVE, BECAUSE APART FROM BEING OF GREATEST IMPORTANCE TO TALK WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF A NATION OF UNDOUBTED INFLUENCE IN WORLD OPINION IT ALSO PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR URUGUAY TO REITERATE ISSUES AND POINTS OF VIEW WHICH WE WISH TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT." EMBASSY WILL FORWARD PRESS CLIPPINGS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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7. COMMENT: URUGUAYAN AND LAFTA OFFICIALS WERE DELIGHTED TO RECEIVE A HIGH LEVEL US BRIEFING ON MTN ISSUES. ALTHOUGH THERE WAS NOT TIME FOR A BROAD INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS, THE FACT OF CONSULTATIONS WAS CLEARLY APPRECIATED AND WE HOPE THIS CAN BE TURNED INTO USEFUL SUPPORT IN GENEVA. SIRACUSA

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